Eurojust activates its network of national correspondents for terrorism matters.

A coordination meeting co-organised by the German and Italian Desks at Eurojust is held in March 2016, with participation from various Member States and third States.

Exchanges of information on the status of victims and witnesses in the countries involved, and the attacker’s travel route between 19-23 December.

Agreement on continued cooperation among national authorities involved and Eurojust.

Berlin Christmas market terrorist attack of December 2016

Terrorist attack in Berlin, 19/12/2016
A truck is deliberately driven into the Berlin Christmas market, leaving 12 people dead and more than 70 injured.

Shootout in Milan, 23/12/2016
Prime suspect is killed in a shootout with police near Milan 4 days after the Berlin attack.

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Berlin terrorist attack of December 2016

On 19 December 2016, a truck was deliberately driven into the Berlin Christmas market, leaving 12 people dead and more than 70 victims. One of the victims was the truck’s original driver, who was found shot dead in the truck. The perpetrator was a Tunisian national inspired by ISIL propaganda. Four days after the attack, he was killed in a shootout with police near Milan, Italy. The event was classified as a terrorist attack.

A case related to the German investigation into the attack, conducted by the Federal Public Prosecutor General’s Office, was registered at Eurojust. The German National Desk was involved within hours after the attack and, particularly when the case further developed, Eurojust’s involvement increased. A parallel case regarding the shootout with the Italian police was registered by the Italian National Desk. Eurojust was instrumental in facilitating a proper and timely exchange of information on judicial level. In addition, Eurojust had access to its network of national correspondents for Eurojust for terrorism matters.

In March 2017, a coordination meeting was held at Eurojust, co-organised by the German and Italian Desks, and with the participation of investigating authorities from various Member States and third States. The objective of the meeting was to exchange information on the status of the victims and witnesses in different countries and the results of the investigations into the travel route of the attacker and his whereabouts in the period between 19 and 23 December 2016. The participants discussed their respective national investigations and agreed to continue their cooperation directly via Eurojust.